

The American Library

AUDIO BOOKS

(An audio book is a recording, as on CD or tape, of a reading of a book by the author or by an actor)

Albright, Madeleine

The Mighty & the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs

Harper Collins, 2006. 8 audio cassettes (8 hrs.) 261.87 ALB

Albright brings considerable experience as a former diplomat, history professor, and child of Czech immigrants to an absorbing look at the intersection of world politics and world religion. From personal experiences, she notes the importance of religion in shaping world events, including the influence of Pope John Paul II on Poland and the world. As an admitted hybrid between realist and idealist, Albright suggests that politics and the values of faith can--and should--be joined in the interest of peace. She details the historic conflicts between Christianity and Islam, between Israelis and Muslims, and conflicts among Muslims, all based on interpretations of religious texts.

Allende, Isabel.

Daughter of Fortune / Performed by Blair Brown.

Harper Audio, 1999. 10 audio cassettes (13 hrs.). ALL

In this extraordinarily vivid, earthy, picaresque historical romance, a bold Chilean senorita, pregnant by her young lover, follows him to San Francisco during the Gold Rush.

Allende, Isabel

My Invented Country [A Nostalgic Journey through Chile] / Introduction read by Isabel Allende; read by Blair Brown.

Harper Audio, 2003. 4 audio cassettes (6 hrs.) 863.64 ALL

Allende wrote this memoir of Chile and her childhood because "nation and tribe are confused in my mind." The catalyst was the "blood-chilling coincidence" of two disasters--the CIA overthrow of the Chilean government on September 11, 1973, and the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. In her incomparable style, Allende outlines Chile's "enchanted regions," its classist society, its tumultuous government, and the duality of her writer's sense of belonging, in spite of being an outsider.

Ali, Muhammad

The Soul of a Butterfly [Reflections on Life's Journey] / Read by Ossie Davis and Yasmeen Ali.

Simon & Schuster Audio, 2004. 3 audio cassettes (5 hrs.) 796.83 ALI

This book is not so much a memoir as a collection of the supreme athlete's spiritual contemplations. Structured as a series of minichapters on abstract virtues--love, friendship, peace, wisdom, understanding, respect, etc.--it consists of Ali's religious reflections, buttressed by personal anecdotes, Sufi parables, aphorisms, personal letters and poetry.

Asimov, Isaac

I, Robot [One Man Saw It Coming] / Read by Scott Brick.

Random House Audio, 2004. 5 audio cassettes (8 hr., 20 min.). ASI

This is a narration of Isaac Asimov's short story collection. The stories are connected by discussions between "robo-psychologist" Susan Calvin (the main character in most of the stories) and a reporter who is putting together a profile of her career. Here are stories of robots gone mad, mind-reading robots, robots with a sense of humor, robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world, all told with Asimov's trademark dramatic blend of science fact and science fiction.

Bach, Richard.

Jonathan Livingston Seagull / Read by Richard Bach.

Audio Renaissance Tapes, 1994. 1 sound cassette (60 min.) BAC

Jonathan is a seagull who wants to master the art of flying, even though his flock has told him many times that all seagulls should concentrate on is getting food. Jonathan has tried to be a "good gull," but he cannot quell his urge to fly. Ultimately this is a fable about the importance of seeking a higher purpose in life, even if your flock, tribe, or neighborhood finds your ambition threatening.

Bachman, Richard

The Regulators / Read by Kate Nelligan

Penguin Audio Books, 1996. 6 audio cassettes (9 hours). BAC

When his parents and brother and sister are murdered in a drive-by shooting, Seth Garon, an autistic six-year-old is adopted by his aunt, Audrey Wyler, and her husband Bill, and taken to live on Poplar Street. Seth's mind is invaded by Tak, an evil entity once buried in a silver mine, who emerges and brings to Poplar Street futuristic vehicles based on images from a Saturday morning animated cartoon, MotoKOPS 2200, as well as characters drawn from reruns of Bonanza's Cartwright saga, and from a 1958 B-movie Western, The Regulators. Poplar Street turns into a killing field as nasty MotoKops blast away at houses and their terrified inhabitants and strange wild beasts with bodies as outlandish as a child's drawings haunt the block.

Baker, Russell,

Russell Baker's Book of American Humor / Read by Tony Randall.

HighBridge Co., 2002. 4 audio cassettes (4 hrs.) 817 RUS

Dividing his anthology into sections that include "The Human Muddle" and "The Gnashing of Teeth," Baker ranges from H.L. Mencken and James Thurber to Molly Ivins and P.J. O'Rourke in search of something to tickle your funny bone.

Brill, Steven.

After: How America Confronted the September 12 Era

Simon & Schuster Audio, 2003. 6 audio cassettes (9 hr.) 973.931 BRI

A look at how America and Americans changed in the year after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, showing how the tragedies touched various individuals in various ways.

Bruchac, Joseph

Sacajawea: The Story of Bird Woman and the Lewis & Clark Expedition / Read by Nicolle Littrell and Michael Rafkin

Audio Bookshelf, 2003. 4 audio cassettes (6 hr., 30 min.) BRU

Joseph Bruchac's fascinating story of the life of the woman who was pivotal to the success of the Lewis and Clark expedition is an outstanding example of historical fiction told from multiple perspectives. The alternating voices of Sacajawea and Captain William Clark, as well as excerpts from Clark's journals, illustrate the tremendous hardships faced by the Corps of Discovery as well as the exhilaration of exploring new territory and encountering other cultures.

Carter, Jimmy

The Hornet's Nest: A Novel of the Revolutionary War / Read by Edward Herrmann.

Simon & Schuster Audio, 2003. 4 audio cassettes (5 hrs. 30 min.) CAR

This is a story of the American War of Independence as fought in the deep South. The plot revolves around the migration of newlyweds Ethan and Epsy Pratt from Philadelphia to a homestead in Georgia. When the War for Independence heats up, the Pratts and their friends and neighbors--many of them Quakers--are forced into the vortex of historical events beyond their control.

Cartwright, Nancy

My Life as a 10-Year-Old Boy / Read by the author.

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2004. 5 audio cassettes (6 hrs.) 791.4572 CAR

Nancy Cartwright is the voice of Bart Simpson, and in her enthusiastic, candid memoir, she delivers an inside view of the show that has become such a cultural phenomenon. Included are the show's creation story and plenty of long anecdotes about the guest stars (the Elizabeth Taylor piece is excellent), along with Cartwright's own experiences with her strangely anonymous brand of celebrity and her advice for people interested in the business.

Cather, Willa

My Antonia / Read by David Colacci

Brilliance Audio, 1997. 6 audio cassettes (9 hrs.) CAT

Here is the story of the prairie in the mid-1800's, when American citizens and European immigrants rushed to the Nebraska prairie to secure their free 160 acres and build their homesteads. It's a story of young people in a young country, of Jim Burden from Virginia and Antonia Shimerda from Bohemia. The prairie was both a lonely and friendly land, lonely with its empty distances, and friendly because pioneer settlers felt an instinctive bond with each other. This is their story, how and why they endured and succeeded.

Charles, Ray & Ritz, David.

Brother Ray: Ray Charles' Own Story

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2005. 10 audio cassettes (13 hr., 30 min.) 782.42164 CHA

Ray Charles (1930-2004) led one of the most extraordinary lives of any popular musician. In *Brother Ray*, he reveals his story unsparingly, from the chronicle of his musical development to his heroin addiction to his

tangled romantic life. Overcoming poverty, blindness, the loss of his parents, and the pervasive racism of the era, Ray Charles was acclaimed worldwide as a genius by the age of thirty-two.

Cornwell, Patricia Daniels.

All That Remains / performed by C.J. Critt.

Harper Audio, 2001. 9 audio cassettes (12 hr., 30 min.) COR

A serial killer is loose in Richmond, specializing in attractive young couples whose bodies are inevitably found in the woods months later-- minus their socks and shoes. After months of exposure to the elements, all that remains of this killer's victims has, in every case, left Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta unable even to determine an exact cause of death. Frustrated that her high-tech forensic skills have apparently proved useless, Kay enlists the help of an ace crime reporter and a psychic.

Crane, Stephen

The Red Badge of Courage / Read by Roger Dressler

Brilliance Corp., 1993. 4 audio cassettes (5 hrs.) CRA

This classic novel of the American Civil War evokes the horrors of battle and the psychology of fear as it recounts the experience of a young, untried Union Army volunteer. Henry Fleming is eager to demonstrate his patriotism in a glorious battle, but when the slaughter starts, he is overwhelmed with fear and flees the battlefield. Ironically, he receives his "red badge of courage" when he is slightly wounded by being struck on the head by a deserter. He witnesses a friend's gruesome death and becomes enraged at the injustice of war. The courage of common soldiers and the agonies of death cure him of his romantic notions. He returns to his regiment and continues to fight on with true courage and without illusions

Joan Didion

The Year of Magical Thinking/ read by Barbara Caruso

Highbridge, 2005. 4 audio cassettes (5 ¼ hrs) 813.54 DID

Joan Didion explores an intensely personal yet universal experience: about marriage, children and memory-- and a life, in good times and bad.

Evans, Nicholas

The Horse Whisperer/ Performance by Peter Coyote.

Bantam Doubleday Dell Audio Pub., 1995. 4 audio cassettes (360 min.) EVA

While riding her horse Pilgrim on a snowy Saturday morning, young Grace Graves is involved in a horrible accident. She and the horse survive, but she loses a leg and Pilgrim becomes unmanageable. Annie, Grace's mother, senses that if Grace is to recover completely her horse must recover, too. When medicine and other traditional treatments fail to tame the horse, Annie moves Grace and Pilgrim to Montana in order to be near Tom Booker, a legendary figure who is rumored to be able to whisper sanity back into the minds of troubled horses. Tom works wonders for Pilgrim and Grace. Inevitably, Annie falls under his spell, and her marriage and family are put in opposition to her consuming love for Tom.

Flynn, Sean.

3000 Degrees: the True Story of a Deadly Fire and the Men Who Fought It / Read by Richard Rohan.
Listen & Live Audio, 2002. 6 audio cassettes (8 hr.) 363.37 FLY

On the evening of December 3, 1999, a true-life drama began when Worcester, Massachusetts, firefighters were called to a blaze in an abandoned warehouse. Two firemen who had been searching for homeless people inside the building called for help. Four others went in to find them, also to be trapped inside. All six would be found dead the next day. The story captures the tragic day with a dramatic ending that focuses on the emotions of the people involved--the firefighters and their families waiting for word at home.

Forbes, Esther.

Johnny Tremain: a Story of Boston in Revolt / Read by Grace Conlin.
Blackstone Audiobooks, 2005. 6 audio cassettes (90 min. each) FOR

Set in the backdrop of Boston just before the Revolutionary War, it tells the story of Johnny, a young apprentice silversmith, who gets involved in the exciting operations and subterfuges that lead up to the Boston Tea Party and the Battle of Lexington. As Johnny is forced into the role of a full-grown man in the face of America's independence, he finds that his relations with those he loves changes for the better as well.

Greeley, Andrew M.

The Bishop in the West Wing: A Blackie Ryan Story / Read by Paul Michael.
Audio Renaissance, 2002. 6 audio cassettes (ca. 9 hr.) GRE

A poltergeist in the White House? Strange as it sounds, that seems to be the case. A playful spirit, of unknown origin, is at work in the First Residence: rattling chains, slamming doors, dislodging paintings, disrupting press conferences and state dinners. Enter Bishop Blackwood Ryan dispatched by the Archdiocese of Chicago to get to the bottom of this high-level haunting.

Griffin, W.E.B.

The Fighting Agents / Read by Stephen Lang
Putnam Berkley Audio, 2000. 4 cassettes (6 hrs.) GRI

Stephen Lang narrates this fourth installment of Griffin's "Men at War" series, which began with *The Last Heroes*. In this episode, the action concerns the extraction of an important German atomic scientist out of Hungary and the establishment of direct contact with the American guerrilla leader in the Philippines, (self-proclaimed) Brigadier-General Wendell Fertig.

Griffin, W.E.B.

In Danger's Path / Read by Stephen Lang
Putnam Berkley Audio, 1998. 4 cassettes (6 hrs.) GRI

Desperate to find someone to unite the warring interests of MacArthur, Nimitz, and Donovan, FDR puts Fleming Pickering in charge of OSS's Pacific operations. Immediately two urgent missions fall into his lap: to contact and rescue a band of former American servicemen and their dependents on the run from the Japanese in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia; and at the same time, to set up a weather station in the Gobi to help direct planned aerial attacks against Japan.

Griffin, W.E.B.

Secret Honor / Read by Stephen Lang

Putnam Berkley Audio, 1999. 4 cassettes (6 hrs.) GRI

A German general works toward the assassination of Adolf Hitler. In Buenos Aires, the general's son, codenamed Galahad, falls under suspicion by the SS after a Nazi operation suddenly goes bad. In the middle of it all is OSS agent Cletus Frade, who knows the identity of them both and what they will do next if they can survive that long. For not only are SS and Abwehr officers hot on their trails in both countries, but the OSS has branded Frade a rogue agent and is determined to shake the truth from him, at whatever cost. If Frade can't figure out a way to hold them all off, then the futures of all three men may be very short indeed.

Griffin, W.E.B.

The Secret Warriors / Read by Edward Herrmann

Putnam Berkley Audio, 1998. 4 cassettes (6 hrs.) GRI

In this second volume in the Men at War saga, the OSS must drop agents into the Belgian Congo and smuggle out ore to use in making atomic bombs. Secrecy is all, since the Germans also may well be devising their own atomic weapons.

Grisham, John.

The King of Torts / Read by Michael Beck.

Random House Audio, 2003. 8 audio cassettes (12 hrs.) GRI

Clay Carter, a public defender, reluctantly takes the case of a young man charged with a random street killing, he assumes it is just another of the many senseless murders that hit D.C. every week. As he digs into the background of his client, Clay stumbles on a conspiracy too horrible to believe. He suddenly finds himself in the middle of a complex case against one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, looking at the kind of enormous settlement that would totally change his life-- that would make him almost overnight, the legal profession's newest king of torts.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel

The House of Seven Gables / Read by Buck Schimer

Brilliance Audio, 1994. 8 audio cassettes (11 hrs.) HAW

In a sleepy little New England village stands a dark, weather-beaten, many-gabled house. This brooding mansion is haunted by a centuries-old curse that casts the shadow of ancestral sin upon the last four members of the distinctive Pyncheon family of Salem. The greed and haughty pride of the Pyncheon family through the generations is mirrored in the gloomy decay of their seven-gabled mansion, where the family's enfeebled and impoverished relations now live. A brilliant intertwining of the popular, the symbolic, and the historical, Hawthorne's gothic Romance is a powerful exploration of personal and national guilt.

The Old Man and the Sea / Performed by Charlton Heston
Harper Collins, 1998. 2 audio cassettes (142 min.) HEM

It tells the story of an old Cuban fisherman named Santiago, who finally catches a magnificent fish after weeks of not catching anything. After three days of playing the fish, he finally manages to reel it in and lash it to his boat, only to have sharks eat it as he returns to the harbor. The other fishermen marvel at the size of the skeleton; Santiago is spent but triumphant.

Heinlein, Robert A.

Stranger in a Strange Land / Read by Christopher Hurt.
Blackstone Audio Books, 1996. 12 audio cassettes (90 min. each). HEI

This is a saga of an earthling, born and educated on Mars, who arrives on our planet with superhuman powers and a total ignorance of the mores of man.

Hillerman, Tony

The First Eagle / Performed by George Guidall.
Harper Audio, 1998. 6 sound cassette (9 hrs.). HIL

Acting Lieutenant Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police is investigating the murder of a fellow officer—apparently committed by a young Hopi, poaching eagles for ceremonial purposes. Chee's former mentor, Joe Leaphorn, is looking for a missing biologist who has been studying the spread of infectious diseases on the reservation. The mystery is set against a cultural backdrop of conflicts between Navajo and Hopi, Tribal and FBI law enforcement, sheep camp and city Navajo, and government and academic scientists studying disease outbreaks.

Isaacs, Susan

Any Place I Hang My Hat / Read by Jane Adams.
Simon and Schuster Audio, 2004. 4 audio cassettes (ca. 6 hr.). ISA

After Harvard and the Columbia School of Journalism, Amy becomes a political reporter for the prestigious weekly *In Depth*. While covering a political fund-raiser, Amy meets a college student who claims to be the son of one of the presidential candidates. It's precisely the sort of story that *In Depth* wouldn't deign to cover, but the idea of tracking down a lost parent and demanding recognition intrigues Amy.

Keillor, Garrison.

Home On the Prairie Stories from Lake Wobegon
HighBridge, 2003. 4 audio cassettes (4 hrs., 30 min.). KEI

This is a collection of stories harvested from Keillor's long-running radio broadcast, *A Prairie Home Companion* shows, aired between 1999 and 2003.

Tape 1: *O youth -- The school forest -- Tent caterpillars -- Camp Scotty*

Tape 2: *Stewardship -- Lindbergh -- Christmas tree -- Family farm*

Tape 3: *Lutheran tendencies -- Mustard plaster -- D.J. -- The Ingqvist boy*

Tape 4: *Lake cabin -- A backyard wedding -- The blue boat -- Jimmy, our bus driver.*

King, Stephen

The Green Mile : the Complete Serial Novel / Read by Frank Muller.

Simon and Schuster Audiobooks, 1999. 10 audio cassettes (ca. 14 hrs.). KIN

The setting is the small "death house" of a Southern prison in 1932. The Green Mile is the hall with a floor "the color of tired old limes" that leads to "Old Sparky" (the electric chair). The narrator is a prison guard, looking back on the events decades later. Prison guard Paul Edgecombe has seen his share of oddities in his years working the Mile. But he's never seen anyone like John Coffey, a man with the body of a giant and the mind of a child, condemned for a crime terrifying in its violence and shocking in its depravity. In this place of ultimate retribution, Edgecombe is about to discover the terrible, wondrous truth about Coffey, a truth that will challenge his most cherished beliefs.

London, Jack

The Call of the Wild and Three Other Klondike Stories / Read by Roger Dressler

Brilliance Corp., 2001. 4 audio cassettes (5 hours)

In "Call of the Wild", a domestic dog is kidnapped from his comfortable life on a California estate and thrown into the wild north woods. At one of the worst moments in his life, Buck receives unexpected human kindness from a new master. With the kind of devotion that only a dog can give, he shows loyalty to his master in ways that are both touching and profound.

MacLachlan, Patricia.

Sarah, Plain and Tall / Performed by Glenn Close.

HarperChildren's Audio , 1995. 1 sound cassette (60 min.). MAC

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.

McManus, Patrick F.

The Bear in the Attic / Read by Norman Dietz.

Audio Renaissance, 2002. 4 audio cassettes. 814.6 MCM

In this collection of hilarious essays, McManus ponders the strange allure of the RV, a thirtieth-century hunting trip, the art of wrestling toads, the existential implications of being lost, the baffling tendency of animals to outsmart those who wish to hunt them, the singular pleasure of doubling the size of every fish one doesn't catch, and what happens when a bear named Pooky decides to hibernate in the attic.

Mark Twain's Library of Humor / Read by Marni Webb, Richard Russ, Rich Nicholas, and Marsh McCandless.

Audio Partners Pub. Corp., 1996. 4 audio cassettes (6 hrs.). MAR

Contains twenty-seven complete stories by fifteen favorite 19th century authors, selected from Mark Twain's 1888 omnibus. In addition to Twain's own pieces, it includes tall tales, fables, and satires by his contemporaries, including Harriet Beecher Stowe, William Dean Howells, Joel Chandler Harris, Artemus Ward, and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

McCourt, Frank

Angela's Ashes

Simon & Schuster Audio, 1997. 10 audio cassettes (ca. 15 hr.). 920 MCC

The audio presents a memoir about the author's childhood and family life in America and the slums of Limerick, Ireland.

Miller, Arthur

The Crucible :The Complete Play / performance by The Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center

Caedmon, 1998. 2 audio cassettes (2 hrs., 15 min.). 812 MIL

At once an allegory of the 1950s' anti-communist witch hunts and a spotlight on seventeenth-century witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts, this play shows how ignorance and good intentions can interweave to destroy lives.

Oates, Joyce Carol.

Blonde: a novel / Performed by Jayne Atkinson.

Harper Audio, 2000. 6 audio cassettes (9 hrs.). OAT

Joyce Carol Oates, one of America's most distinguished writers, reimagines the inner, poetic, and spiritual life of Norma Jeane Baker. Drawing on biographical and historical sources, the narrative illumines Norma Jeane's lonely childhood, wrenching adolescence, and the creation of "Marilyn Monroe." With fresh insights into the heart of a celebrity culture hypnotized by its own myths, *Blonde* is a sweeping novel about the elusive magic of a woman, the lasting legacy of star, and the heartbreak behind the creation of the most evocative icon of the twentieth century.

O'Nan, Stewart

Everyday People / Performed by Giancarlo Esposito.

Harper Audio, 2001. 4 audio cassettes (6 hrs.). ONA

Set in the African American community of East Liberty, Pennsylvania during one fateful week in 1998, *Everyday People* centers around Chris "Crest" Tolbert -- an eighteen-year-old left paralyzed and haunted by the loss of his best friend after a recent accident -- and weaves together the lives of friends and family, lovers and strangers, and their emotions, memories and dreams.

Parker, Dorothy

Dorothy Parker Selected Stories / read by Elaine Stritch.

Penguin Audiobooks, 1995. 2 audio cassettes (180 min.) PAR

Dorothy Parker wrote stories with a tough, unsentimental, acerbic tone that satirized the social condition that leaves women economically dependent on men. Targeting the upper class and their pretensions, she tells of husbands and wives with nothing to say to each other and lives with no serious purpose except to attend the next party. This collection includes seven of her better-known works, including "Big Blonde," an account of a woman's decline into alcoholism and despair that netted Parker the O. Henry Award in 1929.

Cassette 1: *Big blonde -- Too bad*

Cassette 2: *Song of the shirt -- Mr. Durant -- Diary of a New York lady -- Standard of living -- The garter.*

Parkhurst, Carolyn

The Dogs of Babel / Read by Erik Singer.

Time Warner AudioBooks, 2003. 5 audiocassettes (7 hrs., 30 min.). PAR

Only Lorelei--a dog-- was with Paul Iverson's wife on that last afternoon, the only witness to her death. Wild with misery and desperate to know the truth, Paul abandons his everyday life to undertake a series of experiments intended to teach Lorelei to communicate. As his strange project takes shape, Paul recalls the pivotal moments of his years with Lexy, the brilliant, enigmatic woman whose sparkling passion for life and dark, troubled past he embraced equally, but only thought he understood.

Patterson, James & Gross, Andrew

Lifeguard / Read by Billy Campbell

Time Warner AudioBooks, 2005. 5 audiocassettes. PAT

Everything is going right for lifeguard Ned Kelley. He is involved with Tess, the most beautiful woman he has ever seen and what's more, a million dollars is within touching distance; his share of the score for the robbery of some world-class art. All he has to do is trigger alarms to throw the cops off the scent. But when Tess is brutally murdered and the others involved in the robbery are massacred, Ned is the prime suspect. He has been set up.

Philbrick, Nathaniel

Mayflower : a Story of Courage, Community and War / read by Edward Herrmann

Penguin Audio, 2006. 5 audiocassettes (6 hrs.). 973.22 PHI

Mayflower rethinks the events and players that gave rise to a national mythology about Pilgrims living harmoniously with their Indian neighbors. Instead, Philbrick tells a story of ethnic cleansing, bloody wars, environmental ruin, and the deterioration of English-Indian relations. While he introduces familiar elements, Philbrick also recasts well-known characters like Miles Standish ("Captain Shrimp"), William Bradford, and Benjamin Church.

Plain, Belva

Her Father's House / Read by Judith Ivey.

Random House Audio, 2002. 3 audio cassettes (5 hrs.). PLA

Don Wolfe, an attorney in New York City, meets and marries Lillian, but she wants fame and fortune, not a conventional marriage. Their union disintegrates while Lillian is pregnant, and after they divorce, it becomes clear that the child is being neglected. Wolfe kidnaps his daughter, changes their names, and finds a quiet place to live and flourish. When Wolfe's past is revealed, all the characters must deal with the consequences. Judith Ivey's narration brings out the pain of hiding one's past and loving those around one while living fully in the present.

Plath, Sylvia

The Bell Jar / Performed by Maggie Gyllenhaal.
Harper Audio, 2003. 6 audio cassettes (2 hrs.). PLA

The Bell Jar chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under--- maybe for the last time. Sylvia Plath masterfully draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that Esther's insanity becomes completely real and even rational, as probable and accessible an experience as going to the movies.

Poe, Edgar Allan

The Edgar Allan Poe Audio Collection / Performed by Vincent Price and Basil Rathbone.
Caedmon, 2000. 4 audio cassettes (6 hrs.). POE

Poe, said to be the creator of the American Gothic tale and detective fiction, is well represented in this collection of 20 poems and short stories. The pieces illustrate several themes for which Poe was well known.
Tape 1. *To- -- Alone -- The city in the sea --Berenice -- The fall of the House of Usher -- Ligeia.*
Tape 2. *The haunted palace -- The pit and the pendulum -- The masque of red death-- The tell-tale heart.*
Tape 3. *The gold bug*
Tape 4. *The black cat -- The raven -- The facts of the case of M. Valdemar --The cask of Amontillado -- The bells -- Annabel Lee-- Eldorado -- The imp of the perverse-- Morella*

Rand, Ayn.

Anthem / Read by Christopher Lane.
Blackstone Audiobooks, 1997. 2 audio cassettes (2 hrs., 30 min.). RAN

A future world in which individuality has been crushed is the theme of Ayn Rand's "Anthem". This is the tale of a man who dares to make individual choices, to seek knowledge in a dark age, to love the woman of his choice. In a society in which people have no name, no independence, and no values, he is hunted for the unpardonable crime: having the courage to stand above the crowd.

Reeve, Christopher

Nothing Is Impossible : Reflections on a New Life
Simon & Schuster Audio, 2002. 3 audio cassettes (ca. 3.5 hr.). 791.43028 REE

In *Nothing Is Impossible*, the author shows that we are all capable of overcoming seemingly insurmountable hardships. Reeve interweaves anecdotes from his own life with excerpts from speeches and interviews he's given.

Rice, Anne

Violin / Read by Bernadette Dunne
Random House, 1997. 8 audio cassettes (12 hrs.). RIC

Anne Rice's *Violin* tells the story of two charismatic figures bound to each other by a passionate commitment to music as a means of rapture, seduction, and liberation. The novel centers on a uniquely fascinating woman, Triana, and the demonic fiddler Stefan, a tormented ghost who begins to prey upon her,

using his magic violin to draw her into a state of madness. But Triana sets out to resist Stefan, and the struggle thrusts them both into a terrifying supernatural realm.

Rinaldi, Ann.

The Fifth of March : A Story of the Boston Massacre / Read by Melissa Hughes.

Audio Bookshelf, 2004. 6 audio cassettes (8 hrs.). RIN

Fourteen-year-old Rachel Marsh is nanny to John and Abigail Adams' children and witnesses firsthand how tension builds in the feisty New England town in the two years before it erupts in the Boston Massacre. Friends become foes and families divide as British troops arrive in 1768 to force the outspoken Bostonians to toe the line and obey the British government. The tale melds history and fiction to give an excellent view of colonial Boston, its inhabitants, and the political and social attitudes that pervaded the city.

Scottoline, Lisa.

Moment Of Truth / Performed by Barbara Rosenblat.

Harper Audio, 2000. 8 audio cassettes (11 hr., 30 min.). SCO

Lawyer Jack Newlin faces his most difficult assignment when he has to convince the police to accept his confession to a crime he didn't commit. Coming home to find his wife stabbed to death, Jack assumes the killer is their 16-year-old daughter, a super model who had recently announced her pregnancy. To insure his conviction, he hires novice lawyer Mary Di Nunzio to defend him. Not only does Mary develop a crush on him but she also is determined to prove him innocent. She makes many wrong assumptions, follows many wrong leads, and is nearly killed herself, but her faith in Jack is not shaken despite the fact that he wants her off the case when he realizes that she may discover the real truth.

Shaara, Jeff

Gods and Generals / Read by Stephen Lang

Random House Audio, 1996. 4 audio cassettes (4 hours). 813.54 JAC

Jeff Shaara explores the lives of Generals Lee, Hancock, Jackson and Chamberlain as the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg approaches. He captures the disillusionment of both Lee and Hancock early in their careers, Lee's conflict with loyalty, Jackson's overwhelming Christian ethic and Chamberlain's total lack of experience, while illustrating how each compensated for shortcomings and failures when put to the test. The perspectives of the four men, particularly concerning the battles at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, make vivid the realities of the Civil war.

Shaara, Jeff

Gone for Soldiers: a Novel of the Mexican War / Read by George Hearn

Random House, 2000. 4 audio cassettes (6 hours). SHA

Thirteen years before the outbreak of the Civil War, many of the leaders on the opposite sides of that war, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Longstreet, Jackson, Hancock, et al., traveled to Mexico to battle the wily and enigmatic Mexican General Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana. Told through the eyes of two very different men, Robert E. Lee and General Winfield Scott, GONE FOR SOLDIERS is not merely the story of the two-year struggle on unfamiliar soil. It is also the story of an untested engineer first experiencing the horrors of war and assuming a position as a leader of men.

Shaara, Jeff

Rise to Rebellion / Read by Victor Garber

BDD audio, 2001. 4 audio cassettes (6 hours). SHA

Spanning the crucible years beginning with the Boston Massacre in March 1770 and continuing through the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July, 4, 1776, the story of the American Revolution is told from the perspective of the leading figures of the revolution.

Siddons, Anne Rivers.

Islands / Performed by Kate Flemming

Harper Audio, 2004. 8 audio cassettes (12 hrs.). SID

Anny Butler is a caretaker, a nurturer, first for her own brothers and sisters, and then as a director of an agency devoted to the welfare of children. What she has never had is a real family. That changed when she met Lewis Aiken, an exuberant surgeon fifteen years older than Anny. When they marry, she finds her family. Not a traditional one, but a group of Charleston childhood friends who are inseparable, who are one another's surrogate family.

Smith, Betty

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn / Read by Anna Fields.

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2005. 11 audio cassettes (14 hrs., 30 min.). SMI

Francie Nolan, the protagonist, grows up in the slums of Brooklyn during the early part of the twentieth century, and life treats her badly. Less favored in her dysfunctional family than her brother, forced to leave school early, maltreated by fate and by people--she plunges forward, indomitable, courageous.

Sparks, Nicholas.

A Bend in the Road / Read by John Bedford Lloyd.

Time Warner Audio Books, 2001. 4 audio cassettes (ca. 6 hrs.). SPA

Miles' life seemed to end the day his wife was killed in a hit-and-run accident. He still rises each morning to take care of his young son and carries out his duties as deputy sheriff of New Bern, North Carolina, but it's all in a numb and hopeless haze. Then Miles meets Sarah Andrews, who is rebuilding her own life. Slowly, their newfound love starts to soothe the pain of the past. But when a devastating secret is revealed, they start questioning everything they ever believed in.

Steinbeck, John.

The Grapes of Wrath / Read by Dylan Baker

Penguin Putnam, 1998. 24 audio cassettes (42 hrs.). STE

At once naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's fictional chronicle of the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s is perhaps the most American of American Classics. Although it follows the movement of thousands of men and women and the transformation of an entire nation, *The Grapes of Wrath* is also the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads, who are driven off

their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots, Steinbeck created a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision.

Stephenson, Neal

Snow Crash/ Read by Jonathan Davis

Times Warner Books, 2001. 12 audio cassettes (18 hrs.). STE

In the reality of a post-apocalyptic America, Hero Protagonist delivers pizza for Uncle Enzo's CosaNostra Pizza Inc. but in the Metaverse he's a celebrated hacker, a warrior prince who won't sacrifice principle for profit. He encounters a sinister computer virus that threatens to bring about a collapse of the information system. With the help of a young messenger on one of the coolest skateboards ever described, he traces the virus to its source and confronts his nemesis in person and in the Metaverse. Along the way, he explores Babylonian metaphysics and Old Testament theology.

Tales from the Old West by Louis L'Amour, Zane Grey, and Max Brand / Read by Grover Gardner.

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2005. 3 audio cassettes (4 hrs., 30 min.). TAL

This compilation of Western tales contains three tales by the three foremost Western writers. In *Canon Walls* by Zane Grey, Smoke Bellew enters a remote Mormon settlement only a jump ahead of a posse. Finding employment as a ranch hand working for a dowager Mormon, Smoke's life undergoes a transformation and he is able to make her ranch a financial success at the same time falling in love with her wanton daughter, Rebecca. But it is too good to last. The law follows him. *Black Sheep* by Max Brand finds young Mary Valentine, upstart, tomboy and general troublemaker, seeking to protect a man wanted by the law. To complicate her life even further, her two cousins, who have been dodging the law, return home and decide with their father to join the notorious Markle gang in holding up the local bank. In the *Sixth Shotgun* by Louis L'Amour, Leo Carver is about to be hung. Only problem is that a lot of folks are indebted to Leo for one thing or another.

Taylor, Mildred D.

Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry / Read by Lynne Thigpen

Random House Listening Library, 2001. 6 audio cassettes (7 hrs., 26 min.). TAY

Tells the story of one African American family, fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s. Nine-year-old Cassie Logan, growing up protected by her loving family, has never had reason to suspect that any white person could consider her inferior or wish her harm. But during the course of one devastating year when her community begins to be ripped apart by angry night riders threatening African Americans, she and her three brothers come to understand why the land they own means so much to their Papa.

Turow, Scott.

Reversible Errors / Read by J.R. Horne.

Random House Audio, 2002. 9 audio cassettes (ca. 15 hrs.). TUR

Scott Turow's thrilling drama follows the fate of Rommy Gandolph, an inmate on death row for a triple murder in Kindle County, and the legal friends and foes who hold the keys to his fate. As Rommy nears execution, Arthur Raven, his reluctant court-appointed lawyer, learns of new evidence that may exonerate

him. But they run up against Muriel Wynn, Kindle County's formidable chief deputy prosecuting attorney, and Larry Starczek, the original detective on the case, who believes Rommy deserves to die -for many reasons, not all of which have to do with Rommy.

Twain, Mark

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer / Read by Dick Hill
Brilliance Audio, 1992. 6 audio cassettes (9 hours). TWA

This irresistible tale of the adventures of two friends growing up in frontier America is one of Mark Twain's most popular novels. The farcical, colorful, and poignant escapades of Tom and his friend Huckleberry Finn brilliantly depict the humor and pathos of growing up on the geographic and cultural rim of nineteenth-century America.

Twain, Mark

The Humor of Mark Twain / Read by Thomas Becker.
Sound Room Publishers, 2000. 2 sound discs (146 min.). 818.409 TWA

Contains narrations of 22 of Twain's best tall tales, stories and essays: *The notorious jumping frog of Calaveras Country* -- *The story of the old ram* -- *What stumped the blue jays* -- *Tom Quartz* -- *Cannibalism in the cars* -- *The facts in the great beef contract* -- *Journalism in Tennessee* -- *Punch, brothers, punch* -- *The McWilliamses with Membranous Croup* -- *The McWilliamses and the burglar alarm*.

Vonnegut, Kurt.

Breakfast of Champions: Or Goodbye Blue Monday / Performed by Stanley Tucci.
Harper Audio, 2003. 4 audio cassettes (6 hrs. 30 min.). VON

Breakfast of Champions is vintage Vonnegut. One of his favorite characters, aging writer Kilgore Trout, finds to his horror that a Midwest car dealer is taking his fiction as truth. The result is murderously funny satire as Vonnegut looks at war, sex, racism, success, politics, and pollution in America and reminds us how to see the truth.

Vreeland, Susan.

Girl In Hyacinth Blue / Read by Loren Lester, Sheryl Bernstein, Martin Ferrero, Gigi Bermingham, Jennifer Baum, J.D. Cullum, Tom Fitzpatrick and Janellen Steininger.
HighBridge Audio, 2001. 4 audio cassettes (5 hrs.). VRE

Eight linked stories tracing the history of a painting by the 17th century Dutch artist, Vermeer. In one, he paints his daughter to pay off debts, a second story describes the loss of the ownership papers, and a third takes place on the eve of its theft by the Nazis.

Wells, H. G.

The War of the Worlds / Read by Christopher Hurt

Blackstone Audiobooks, 2005. 5 audio cassettes (ca. 90 min. each). WEL

This science-fiction classic describes the Martian invasion of earth. Following the landing in England of ten huge and indefatigable space ships, complete chaos erupts. Using their fiery heat rays and monstrous strength, the heartless aliens threaten the future existence of all life on earth.

Wharton, Edith.

The Age of Innocence / Read by Dick Hill

Brilliance Corp., 1997. 4 audio cassettes (10 hrs.). WHA

Newland Archer is a young lawyer, a member of New York's high society, and engaged to be married to May Welland. Countess Ellen Olenska is May's cousin, and wants a divorce from the Polish nobleman she married. Intelligent and beautiful, she comes back to New York where she tries to fit into the high society life she had before her marriage. Her family and former friends, however, are shocked by the idea of divorce within their social circle, and she finds herself snubbed by her own class. Ellen and Newland fall in love and must choose between passion and conventions.

Audio

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